As per information given to me in regard thereto, no agency has yet started. I, therefore, urge upon the Petroleum Minister that all these agencies may be opened without any further delay so that the serious problem of LPG in my constituency could be solved.

(ii) Need to Declare Main Centre Road in Kerala as National Highway

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Sir, the Main Centre Road in Kerala is a very important road which is connected to various towns in Travancore-Cochin area. There has been a tremendous increase in traffic on Trivandrum-Angamely segment of the Main Centre Road and a number of accidents are taking place in this road.

The Government of Kerala has recommened to the Central Government for according first priority and upgrading this road to a National Highway. This is a long pending demand of the people of this area to declare this road as a National Highway.

I request the Union Government to consider it seriously and take over the Main Centre Road to the National Highway System.

(iii) Need for an Overbridge near Chengalpattu Railway in Tamil Nadu

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (Chengalpattu) : Sir, in my constituency of Chengalpattu, which is the first Railway Station Junction after Madras-Egmore, there is a road branching off from the Highway No 45 near the Chengalpattu Railway Station Junction leading to Kalpakkam, Thirukkazhukundram and Mamallapuram the famous tourist centre and the only sea port of the Pallave Kings during the Ninth and the Twelfth Centuries

But just near the Chengalpattu Railway Station there is a railway track across the road leading to these important towns. There is always heavy traffic on this road because thousands of people and huge machineries have to go daily to Kalpakkam Atomic Power Centre, tourists to Thirukashukunram and the famous port-town, Mamallapuram of Pallava dynasty where historical monuments are preserved and exhibited to the tourists from all over the world.

Sir, thousands of people are put to a lot of difficulties daily due to closure of the railway gate at this point very frequently and also for continuously longer time especially during the busy hours. People have been demanding for the construction of an overbridge on this busy railway track at this crossing to avoid accidents and also enable uninterrupted flow of traffic on this busy road.

I would therefore request the hon. Railway Minister kindly to consider a proposal for constructing an overbridge at this point and sanction the same so that construction of an overbridge can be taken in hand immediately.

(iv) Need to find permanent solution to the problem of flood in Deoria, Padrauna and Balia districts in U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI (Salempur) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the Ganga, Ghaghra, Rapti, Budi Gandak Gandak and Khanuwa rivers flow through Deoria Padrauna and Balia districts of U.P. These rivers get flooded every year resulting loss of crores of rupees As a result of this economic condition of farmers gradually become worst putting them below the poverty line. Every year lakhs of rupees are spent on flood protection measures. After the flood situation returns to normal, attention of the Government is diverted from this and therefore no permanent solution is made

I, therefore, would like to request the Central Government that funds may be allocated after conducting technical survey in this regard in order to have a permanent solution of this problem.

(v) Need fof early opening of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Jahanabad, Bihar.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Jahanabad district of Bihar is considered to be terrorism affected area. The people of that area are illiterate. Terrorism, Casteism and Communalism is increasing there. I had written a letter to the then Education Minister, Shri Arjun Singh requesting him to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Jahanabad and he had forwarded the some to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan The Sangthan had informed the officers of the Sangathan posted at Jahanabad Branch about it. The officers had informed me that 15 acre of land would be required for construction of five rooms, administrative block with verandah, community Education hall, printing press, toilet. It is difficult to get 15 acres of land in urban areas. Therefore, the Government has reduced it and ultimately 10 acres of land of the farmers was made available A metalled road was also constructed to link the school A total sum of Rs. 1 crore has been spent on land and construction work etc. The collector, who is the Chairman of the school was asked to give project Report. The collector, after getting a video cassette, and some photagraphs, of the project sent a detailed report. But

the school has not yet been opened There is great resentment among the people of that area Due to not starting the schools from the current academic year Therefore, the school may be started from this year itself

(vi) Doubling of Sonarpur-Canning Railway Line and also to Improve the condition of Coaches on Sealdah-Canning Branch Line

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) Sir the railway line from Sealdah to Canning on the Eastern Railway is said to be second oldest railway line built in the country Canning is the gateway to Sunderbans area, renowned for its unique flora and fauna and mangrove forests but it it poverty-ridden being no industry there and the local populace look to tourist traffic potential only There is at present a double line between Sealdah and ssonarpur I would suggest that the Sonarpur-Canning line which is only 25 kms may also be doubled during the Ninth Plan so as to boost tourist traffic and help these poor residents to sustain themselves Till such time as this is done I would also suggest the introduction of tokenless system on this section from Sonarpur to Canning which would very much help the tourists in saving their time in waiting for crossing of trains and improve the conditions of coaches on the Sealdah-Canning Branch Line and strengthen the existing arrangements in coaches so that the tourists both domestic and foreign are not handicapped by missing window shutters and proper seating arragements

(vii) Need to bring Sambhalpur, Jharsuguda and Sundergarh Districts under the Jurisdiction of newly created East Coast Railway

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) Sir it is a matter of gratification that although late a new railway zone called the East Coast Railway has been created recently with its Headquarters at Bhubaneshwar yet a substantial portion of the State of Orissa under the industrial districts of Sambalpur Jharsuguda and Sundergarh along the Bombay-Howrah rail line has been kept out of it contrary to the expectations of the people Continuation of this area under the jurisdiction of the South Eastern Railway having Headquarters at Garden Reach Calcutta is not logical On this score there is mounting discontentment and resentment among the people in the said region

I therefore request the Minister of Railways to personally look into the matter and correct the situation without further delay

17.11 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Drought Situation in Orissa

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN Now on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture Shri Srikanta Jena the hon Minister will make a statement on the situation caused by drought in Orissa

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) The Agriculture Minister is busy in the other House *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR M P JAISWAL (Bettiah) What happened to my matter under Rule 377?

MR CHAIRMAN You please meet Mr Speaker have read out the names as ordered by him

[English]

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) The hon Minister is going to make a statement on the drought situation in Orissa My appeal to you Sir is that the Minister of Agriculture must be present in the House now

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA He is coming He is in the other House I will read out the statement and then you can participate In meantime he will come from there

MR CHAIRMAN When the discussion under Rule 193 regarding drought situation in Orissa takes place I hope the Minister of Agriculture will be present here

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA Yes Sir

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) In the meanwhile Delhi Development Bill can be taken up *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA No Sir It is not possible

Sir on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, I seek leave of the House to make a statement on the drought situation in Orissa and the relief and rehabilitation measures taken by the Government Normally the monsoon season starts from early June and continues till the end of September in Orissa The annual rainfall in the State is 1482 mm In the current year the monsoon started late in some areas and was also scanty and erratic There was significant departure from the normal level in the months of July and September There has been a deficit of 24 per cent in the rainfall during the south-west monsoon According to the information furnished by the Government or Orissa on the basis of